

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 USIE-00 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

SP-02 L-03 PA-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10 /072 R

DRAFTED BY P:JJSISCO:SB

APPROVED BY P - JOSEPH J. SISCO

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S -FVORTIZ

----- 030871

O 092120Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 214150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

1. AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION WAS
ASKED OF THE SECRETARY TO WHICH HE MADE THE RESPONSE GIVEN
BELOW:

QTE: QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON A RELATED PART OF THE
MIDDLE EAST, DO YOU THINK THERE IS A COMPROMISE POSSIBLE
BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ON THE PROJECTED
SALE OF 14 HAWK MISSILE BATTERIES TO JORDAN?

ANSWER: FIRST OF ALL, THE ISSUE IS NOT BETWEEN THE
ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS SO MUCH AS BETWEEN JORDAN
AND THE CONGRESS, IN THE SENSE THAT A COMPROMISE MUST BE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN, IN ORDER TO BE

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VIABLE.

WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WHETHER WE CAN FIND SOME FORMULA THAT WOULD EASE THEIR CONCERNS.

THERE ARE DEFINITE LIMITS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE, BECAUSE KING HUSSEIN HAS POINTED OUT ON INNUMERABLE OCCASIONS THAT HE WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON THE NUMBERS.

NOW, WHETHER ANY COMPROMISE IS POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT TO DEPLOYMENT, RATE OF DELIVERY, OR SIMILAR MATTERS, WE ARE NOW EXPLORING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, AND THEN OF COURSE WE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN. END QTE.

2. YOU NEED NOT RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE JORDANIANS BUT IF THEY SHOULD RAISE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATEMENT, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE SECRETARY IN SAYING THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS, WAS NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLYING THAT WE FEEL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT INVOLVED. THE POINT HE WAS INTENDING TO MAKE WAS THAT WE AND THE JORDANIANS ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO 14 BATTERIES, AND, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO PROBLEM BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND JORDAN IN THIS REGARD. THE OTHER POINT HE WAS MAKING WAS IF PEOPLE ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF COMPROMISE, IT HAS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. IN ADDITION, IN CASE JORDANIANS RAISE THE QUESTION ABOUT THE LAST PARAGRAPH AS TO POSSIBLE AREAS OF COMPROMISE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE ARE GIVING THOUGHT TO ESSENTIALLY FACE-SAVING FORMULA AND THAT WE OBVIOUSLY WILL DISCUSS WITH THE JORDANIANS ANY IDEAS WE MAY DEVELOP. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN GET THE CONGRESS TO SUSTAIN OUR POSITION ON ALL OF THE 14 BATTERIES. KISSINGER

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NNN

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